Rented aircrafts

1213. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India had rented two aircrafts that did not prove to be safe to fly and lost over 29 million dollars while terminating the lease agreement prematurely;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has asked Air India to stop using these aircrafts; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. The aircraft were on pre release checks before their return upon termination of lease.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

Strike by pilots of Air India

1214. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether pilots of Air India (AI) were on strike recently;

(b) if so, the losses incurred by AI due to their strike;

(c) the demands of pilots;

(d) whether AI employs foreign pilots too;

(e) if so, the difference between salaries paid to a foreign pilot *vis-a-vis* Indian pilot; and

(f) whether this difference is justifiable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Consequent to the decision of the Management of the Company to reduce the PLI and flying related allowances in respect of Executives of all streams and officers of NACIL, the executive pilots of erstwhile Indian Airlines started reporting sick and absented themselves in a concerted manner from 26.9.2009 and that of erstwhile Air India from 28.9.2009. NACIL incurred a loss of approximately Rs. 65.00 crores due to the pilot strike in September, 2009.

(d) to (f) Yes, Sir. There is no difference on overall wage package to foreign pilots versus Indian Pilots.

Payment to Indian/foreign pilots

†1215. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India is paying 25 per cent more to foreign pilots in comparison to Indian pilots;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.